

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C. May 2, 1942.

The eleventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Saturday, May 2, 1942. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Poor,
Mr. Stackpole,

also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and
Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held March 14, 1942, were approved.

2. GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL, WAR DEPARTMENT: Under date of April 13, 1942, the following letter was received from Major General James A. Ullo, The Adjutant General, with plaster models by Joseph Kiselewski for the Good Conduct Medal:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

The Secretary of War has directed that the plaster models for the obverse and reverse of the Good Conduct Medal be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for consideration. I am sending the models to you by special messenger.

The Good Conduct Medal was authorized by Executive Order No. 3524, July 28, 1941. The Commission of Fine Arts considered and recommended approval of a design for this medal September 30, 1941.

It would be appreciated if you would furnish me, at your earliest convenience, the advice of the Commission with reference to the accompanying plaster models.

Sincerely,
JAMES A. ULLO,
Major General
The Adjutant General.

The Commission inspected the models. It was noted that the artist

had carried out the models according to the approved design. The Commission approved the models (Exhibit A)

3. AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL: Under date of April 28, 1942, the following letter was received from Brig. Gen. James E. Wharton, Director of Military Personnel, War Department, with models by Lee Lawrie for the obverse and reverse of the American Defense Service Medal:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am transmitting, herewith, plaster models for the American Defense Service Medal. This medal was authorized by Executive Order No. 8308, June 28, 1941. The Commission of Fine Arts considered and recommended approval of a design for this medal.

It would be appreciated if you would furnish me at your earliest convenience of the Commission with reference to the accompanying plaster models.

Sincerely yours,
JAMES E. WHARTON,
Brig. Gen., U. S. Army,
Director of Military Personnel.

The Commission inspected the models. Mr. Stackpole thought the relief to be rather low but nevertheless was well satisfied with the models. The Commission approved the models (Exhibit B).

4. ADDITIONAL MEDALS FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT: Major J. H. Heil, Jr., of the Division of Military Personnel, War Department, conferred with the Commission on the subject of designs for proposed additional medals, namely, a Legion of Merit Medal, and a Medal For Merit, as explained in a memorandum which he submitted (Exhibit C). Also he submitted a letter from Gen. Wharton with suggested designs for these medals, as follows:

May 1, 1942.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am transmitting herewith designs for proposed medals, the Legion of Merit and the Medal of Merit. An act authorizing these awards has passed the Senate and is being considered in the House of Representatives.

A competent sculptor will be employed to execute these designs. It is not expected that the drawings will be reproduced exactly as

submitted, but they will be used as a guide from which a sculptor may work.

Will you please furnish me the advice of the Commission with regard to the attached designs?

Very sincerely,
JAMES E. WILKINSON,
Brig. Gen. U. S. Army,
Director of Military Personnel.

Major Heil said that the Legion of Merit medal will be issued only to personnel of the armed forces of the United States and personnel of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations, in four degrees as follows:

- (a) "Chief Commander"--For Chiefs of State, Commanders in Chief of large armed forces, both military and naval.
- (b) "Commander" - For General Officers and Admirals.
- (c) "Officers" - For officers of field rank
- (d) "Legionnaire" - For officers below field rank and enlisted personnel.

The Medal for Merit is to be awarded only to civilians of "nations prosecuting the war under the joint declaration of the United Nations and all friendly foreign nations", and is to be available in one degree only. All the American Republics would be in this list.

Major Heil pointed out that the War Department now has no medal to give to distinguished visitors, although American officers receive medals continually from foreign countries.

The Commission were pleased to note that the War Department proposes to give different sculptors an opportunity to make designs and models for medals. After consideration, it was decided to recommend that Paulanship be commissioned to execute the Legion of Merit medals, using the suggested designs submitted by the War Department as a basis; and that John Flanagan be commissioned to execute the Medal for Merit. The War Department was informed accordingly (Exhibit C-1).

Major Heil said the War Department would like to expedite the production

of these medals, and asked how much time a sculptor should be allowed to make a design and then the models. Mr. Stackpole said two weeks should be sufficient as a minimum for making a design, and a month for making the models, obverse and reverse.

5. ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL: The Chairman reported that under date of April 20, 1942, the War Department had submitted the following letter with designs for an Army of Occupation Medal, recently authorized by Congress:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am transmitting herewith proposed designs for the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal.

This Medal was authorized by Public Law 322, 77th Congress, Chapter 501, 1st Session, H.R.5750.

It would be appreciated if you would furnish me, at your earliest convenience, the advice of the Commission with reference to the accompanying designs.

Sincerely,

James E. Wharton,

Brigadier General

Director, Military Personnel Division.

The Chairman stated that the designs were not made by sculptors but by officers in the War Department, and since therefore he felt certain the Commission would disapprove the designs he had returned them with a letter of disapproval of them (Exhibit D). The Commission concurred in the matter. Mr. Clarke expressed his appreciation of this, since, he said, he would be entitled to one of the medals and desires it be well designed.

The Chairman also stated that he has about 150 medals, many of them the work of leading artists in the United States and from the lot he selected about 25 names for a list which he furnished the War Department informally. The Commission noted the names from a copy of the list (Exhibit D-1) and agreed that they are all able sculptors. Mr. Stackpole said that he would like to add about six names from the list of members of the Sculptors Guild, and it was agreed that he should do this.

Major Heil said that the War Department has decided to select a competent sculptor for the Army of Occupation Medal from the list furnished by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission were pleased to hear this.

6. SELECTION OF ARTISTS FOR MEDALS: The Chairman reported that he had received the following letter from the War Department concerning medals:

April 23, 1942.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Arrangements have been made by the War Department for the employment of an artist to execute designs for medals which are submitted to the Commission.

I have been informed that Mr. Nobelstad, a former student of Lorado Taft, has been selected for this position. I understand that Mr. Nobelstad designed a commemorative coin which the Commission approved.

It is believed that this method will expedite the processing of medals and at the same time will not detract from the artistic requirement.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Sharton,
Brig. Gen. U. S. Army
Director of Military Personnel.

The Chairman stated that he had written to General Sharton that he would present the letter at the meeting of the Commission today; he would consider it extremely unfortunate if one man were employed to make the designs for a series of medals, and since there are many competent sculptors and medalists a different artist should be selected for each medal (Exhibit E). The Commission concurred in the matter, and strongly emphasized the desirability of giving sculptors and medalists the opportunity to practice their profession during this War period whenever possible, since bronze and other metals are being withheld from them.

7. NEW DESIGN FOR CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR: Attention was called to the design of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and Major Heil was asked if something couldn't be done to change the design and improve it. There is

a generally recognized error in it in having the star point downward, also it was thought the medal looks cheap and tinny. Since it is a medal of highest award it was thought that it should be a gold medal.

Major Heil admitted that all this is true, but since appropriations for the medal provide that the medal must be made "as is", no change can be made in it now.

The Commission suggested that after the War steps be taken at once to change the design of the medal so as to improve it.

8. SOUTH CAPITOL STREET BRIDGE: Capt. H. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways, of the District of Columbia, submitted in behalf of the Commissioners of the District four sets of designs received as the result of a limited competition. Captain Whitehurst said: "This matter we have before you this morning is here by request of the District Commissioners, who seek advice and comments. The Commissioners some two months ago invited four Consultant Engineers to submit designs for the proposed South Capitol Street Bridge. Of course we furnished all the surveying services, borings, and other data, and one of the requirements was that they associate with themselves an architect that would be acceptable. They were to submit their own design. We gave them very little fixed information except as to clearance and draw span; we stated it ~~could~~ not be a bascule because of the flying field nearby; otherwise they were left to their own initiative as much as possible. We required also that they furnish a quantity and cost estimate, and that the services of the architect in this respect should be given as a separate item. Heretofore we have never been able to tell how much the architect's influence was with reference to the completed structure.

"The old bridge over the Anacostia is in a critical condition. It was built over 50 years ago. We continually have trouble with the bridge; only

yesterday we could not open the draw. The bridge carries 35,000 vehicles a day and if something should happen to it, while the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge is in the vicinity, it would create great hardship because that bridge serves East Washington, whereas the Anacostia River Bridge serves Anacostia, Congress Heights and those towns south of Washington on the Maryland side of the river.

"The District Commissioners desire to expedite this project, and if you consider one of the sets of plans suitable we desire to proceed with the substructure while we are getting funds for the bridge.

"The four firms that submitted designs are:

- (a) Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff and Douglas, Consulting Engineers;
McKim, Mead and White, Consulting Architects, New York City
- (b) Modjeski and Masters, Consulting Engineers, Philadelphia
Paul F. Cret, Consulting Architect
- (c) Harrington and Courtelou, Consulting Engineers, New York City,
Louis Justenent, Washington, Consulting Architect.
- (d) Sverdrup & Parcel, Consulting Engineers, St. Louis
Lauran, Russell, Crowell & Mullgardt, Consulting Architects, St. Louis

"The designs you will notice represent three types of bridges: the deck-girder type, the deck truss, and a combination of the two. The designs by Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff and Douglas has a retractable draw span. It is something new in draw span designing--it just slides back and forth and requires a collapsible balustrade---and probably is all right and suitable for short bridges; but I am authorized to say that this type of draw span would not be acceptable to the District Commissioners. So far as I know there are only two or three draw spans of that type in this country and one of them has been replaced by a bascule. In this case a bascule could not be accepted at this location on account of its height conflicting with the flying field of the Navy, Bolling Field. After consultation with the Navy we agreed on a 150 foot

horizontal clearance and a 45 foot vertical clearance to the floor of the bridge, with no lights above the railing. But what we are particularly concerned in now is the type of bridge we should build and that is the purpose of submitting the designs to your Commission.

Thereupon the Commission considered the designs. Attention was called to various features in each of the designs. The designs showing trusses did not particularly commend themselves to the Commission, since it has been the policy of the Commission in recent years to eliminate trusses from bridges, as for example the new Chain Bridge and the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge. It was thought a swing draw, as shown in one of the designs, would be difficult to operate. Thereupon Dr. Cret withdrew from the discussion.

The design submitted by Modjeski and Masters was then considered. That design called for a plain steel girder bridge, and it was noted that a bridge of this type would conform to the new Chain Bridge and the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge. Also one of the plans submitted by Modjeski and Masters showed a very satisfactory treatment of the approaches to the bridge. The approach from South Capitol Street will turn eastward at about F Street, S.E. so as to bring the bridge nearer to the old Anacostia Bridge and make suitable connections with roadways on the south side of the Anacostia River less difficult.

The Commission thereupon decided that in their opinion the design by Modjeski and Masters would be the most suitable for the proposed South Capitol Street Bridge, and Captain Whitehurst was informed accordingly (Exhibit F)

9. DESIGN FOR GOVERNMENT DORMITORY: Honorable George Howe, Supervising Architect, accompanied by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, Consulting Architect, of the Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, submitted a design and model for a proposed Women's Dormitory to be built on the square along Constitution Avenue between Third Street and John Marshall Place.

Mr. Underwood explained the design, stating that it is to be a two-story building with the exterior of a composition board known as Semesto Board, a fire resisting material consisting of concrete and asbestos, similar to that of the temporary war building. It will provide rooms for 800 women. Additional similar dormitories are to be built in Potomac Park and in Arlington County, Virginia.

A model of one of the rooms showed that it measured 8 x 11 feet, very simple in its interior finish with a closet bed; no private wash room.

Mr. Underwood said he thought a room would rent for about \$20 or \$25 a month. He said the District of Columbia Government owns the land and the Commissioners want reimbursement of \$36,000 a year, which they are receiving for its present use as a parking lot.

The Commission approved the scheme, with the understanding that the building would be dismantled soon after the war, and Mr. Howe was informed accordingly (Exhibit G)

10. WORLD WAR POSTERS: The Chairman presented the following letter received from Mr. James W. Chandler, Starks Building Arcade, Louisville, Ky:

April 24, 1942.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Would you be so good as to give me your opinion as to whether or not there is any art worthy of the name in war posters. The reason that I ask this is that I am the owner of a large collection of posters issued during the past 25 years by the most famous artists of the period. In this collection are works by the finest artists of this country, France, England and other countries too numerous to mention. There are over 1,000 posters in the collection, so you can guess from this the size and the territory covered.

I am of the opinion that many of these are inspired and because of the stress of the times sometimes the artist has done his best work.

Any information you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you should like more detailed information about any of these posters, I shall try to give you that what you wish.

Yours truly,
James W. Chandler

The Commission discussed the subject. Mr. Poor said he had heard complaints from artists that the making of posters for this War is not receiving the attention of artists and that one of the officials connected with this work said in his opinion the making of posters was more related to commercial art than to the art of painting. The Commission did not agree as to this and pointed out that during the World War of 1917-1918 artists were employed to make posters, and in this War the countries of Europe have produced some very beautiful posters. Mr. Clarke said he had a collection of about 700 or 800 posters and some of them are works of art. It was stated that doubtless Mr. Chandler has some very good ones in his collection.

The secretary called attention to the competition for Red Cross posters recently conducted by the Section of Fine Arts, stating that the designs are now on exhibition in the National Gallery of Art.

Mr. Poor was asked to draft a letter to be sent to the Librarian of Congress, which he did, and it was sent accordingly (Exhibit H). A copy of the letter was sent to Mr. Chandler (Exhibit H-1), and also H-2.

11. TEMPORARY MARQUEE FOR UNION STATION: The secretary submitted a design received from the Inspector of Buildings under date of April 4, 1942 (Application No. 984), together with a copy of a letter which Mr. E. A. Tamm, General Manager of the Washington Terminal Company, had sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, as follows:

April 2, 1942.

Board of Commissioners,
District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

For some time past a committee of traffic engineers of the District of Columbia and railroad engineers has been engaged in the study of traffic conditions around Union Station Plaza,

including vehicular movements to and from the east and west driveways and front of the Union Station with the objective in view of reducing congestion and delay. Conclusion has been reached that there is only one immediate correction that can be put into effect that will materially help the situation. It is proposed to use the inner roadway of the two circular roadways which is now used primarily for parking and to have all vehicles coming from the west or southwest into this roadway, operating in a counter clockwise direction and bringing them to the front of the Station. Cabs will then move into their parking space or proceed either back to town or into the west entrance area, which will be used exclusively for the loading of passengers.

To make the practice of discharging passengers from cars in front of the Station effective, it seems to us necessary to provide some temporary form of cover, which can be constructed to protect passengers until they get under the permanent cover of the Station Building. With this end in view, we have had a plan showing such a structure prepared and same is enclosed herewith along with formal request for a permit to proceed with such structure. This arrangement would be as an emergency measure, with the understanding that it will be built of wood, excepting flashing which would be of suitable alloy material.

As this is a matter of pressing importance, we would appreciate any expeditious consideration and reply at the earliest possible date.

Yours very truly,

J. E. Tolson,
Manager.

The secretary stated that he had brought the question of Roadways to the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and that Mr. John Nolen, Director of Planning, had reported as follows:

April 23, 1942.

"As requested in your memorandum of April 10, the proposed plan for erection of a temporary marquee in front of the Union Station to improve traffic conditions there was submitted to and approved by the Planning Commission at its meeting last week.

"When considering this matter the Commission was advised of the proposed change in routing traffic around the plaza, and the general feeling was that this would materially improve the present situation.

Mr. Tolson, accompanied by Mr. H. Babcock, Superintendent, and Mr. W. R. Ganser, Engineer, of the Washington Terminal Company, as also Mr. L. Kimball, Engineer of Buildings of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, met with the Commission to discuss the subject. Dr. Cret made a few suggestions for changes in the design, having in view a better scheme

of arrangement of the columns and simplifying the design. These suggestions were favorably considered and will be embodied in a final drawing. The scheme was approved subject to these changes, and in the meantime Mr. Tolson was authorized to proceed with the project.

Attention was called to the height of the marquee. Mr. Tolson said that it has been designed to be 14 feet high to allow buses to come to the platform, although it might be reduced about a foot. The Commission decided to leave this matter for adjustment by the Terminal Company.

13. DESIGN FOR Y. M. C. A. BUILDING: Mr. Francis Sullivan, architect, submitted preliminary drawings for a proposed permanent Y. M. C. A. building proposed for a site in the vicinity of the new War Department building in Arlington County, Virginia. He said officials of the War Department are interested in this, since it would provide dormitory and recreational facilities for about 1,200 employees. Mr. Sullivan indicated that the site desired is near the cantonment, in the Arlington Farms area.

The Commission discussed the subject. The Chairman stated that for many years the Commission of Fine Arts has opposed the erection of permanent buildings in the Arlington Farms area, and had succeeded in having the new War Department building relocated south of the farms area, because at some future day the Arlington Farms site is to be made a part of Arlington National Cemetery. In addition to the millions of the soldiers of World War I of 1917-1918 the present War would give several million additional men the right to burial in Arlington and there is no room for expansion, except to extend the cemetery eastward to the Potomac.

Mr. Sullivan presented a design of the building, which was inspected, but no action was taken thereon, in view of the suggestion of the Commission to Mr. Sullivan that he make inquiry as to a possible location along the

Arlington Ridge Road near Columbia Pike. Mr. Sullivan said he would do this.

14. BRIDGE NO.5, WAR DEPARTMENT: Under date of April 7th the following letter was received from the Public Roads Administration, with design for Bridge No.5:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Transmitted herewith is a print of a drawing prepared by our consulting architect, Mr. Paul P. Cret, for the architectural elevation for Bridge No.5 which carries the B road over the southbound drive of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway on Columbia Island on the War Department Building Road Network. Except for minor modifications Scheme A is the elevation adopted.

Very truly yours,
Joseph Barnett,
Principal Highway Design Engineer.

The secretary stated that Dr. Cret had reported that the changes referred to by Mr. Barnett were of minor importance, and that thereupon the Chairman approved the design. The Commission concurred in the matter (Exhibit I).

15. BRIDGE FOR COLUMBIA ISLAND: The secretary reported that he had expected that the Office of National Capital Parks would submit a design for an additional bridge connecting with Columbia Island, but since it had not been received, it evidently is not ready for submission. The Commission thereupon authorized the Chairman and Mr. Lamb to advise as to the design should it be received prior to the next meeting of the Commission.

16. PURCHASES FOR THE FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission visited the Freer Gallery of Art, and approved the purchase of several works of art by the Gallery (Exhibit J).

17. STATUE OF SIR WILLIAM BLICKSTONE: The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from Hon. F. A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, as follows:

April 1, 1942.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

Mr. Chief Justice Groner of the District Court, Washington,

and Mr. Armisted Peter, a well known citizen of Washington, called on me yesterday afternoon to talk about a statue which the late Paul Bartlett made of the great British jurist Blackstone. The original is in London, and the widow of Paul Bartlett has had a bronze made from the London statue and wishes to erect it here in Washington.

Chief Justice Groner had been consulted, and gave it as his opinion that the statue ought not to be erected in the Supreme Court Building because it is a bronze and not marble, and perhaps it is more appropriate that it be erected in Judiciary Square.

After listening to Justice Groner and Mr. Peter, I said that this matter should be taken up with you, and I would find out when you are next to be in Washington and try to arrange for a meeting. Can you let me know when that will be, and also how you would want to handle it? Perhaps you would want to submit it to your entire Commission, and if so arrange for a meeting.

I may say that Justice Groner is a very busy man and it is not always easy to get hold of him; also that Mr. Peter has now got a job in the Navy which keeps him busy a good share of the time. If you want me in on the matter, I will do what I can to be present, or you can yourself arrange a meeting with these two gentlemen at your and their mutual convenience.

The location for the statue which they talked of is to be directly north of the present District Court Building, and they want to place the statue facing to the north where their new building will eventually be built. In other words, the new building is to be built on the site of the old Pension Office building.

Very sincerely yours,

Frederic A. Delano.

The Chairman stated that he replied to Mr. Delano (Exhibit K) suggesting that the Commission inspect the statue, and presented the following letter received from Justice Groner on the subject; addressed to Mr. Delano and referred by him:

April 30, 1942.

My dear Mr. Delano:

I return the correspondence with the Fine Arts Commission which you were good enough to send me to read.

As I have already said to you, I can think of nothing more appropriate than the erection of this statue of Blackstone in Judiciary Square. The original was made in recognition of the tremendous debt of America to Sir William Blackstone. The proceeding suggested by Mr. Clarke is, in my opinion, entirely in order, and I should be very glad to know his reactions from an artistic point of view after he has examined the statue in the studio. I think the estimate of \$10,000 for a pedestal is probably excessive. I am sure half the amount named by him will be sufficient.

With kind regards to you and the best of wishes always,

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence D. Groner.

Thereupon, in accordance with arrangements made by the secretary with Mrs. Bartlett for an inspection of the statue at her old studio of Mr. Bartlett, the Commission, having visited first a suggested site on the north side of the old District of Columbia Court Building in Judiciary Park, inspected the statue during the afternoon. Mr. Nathan J. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, was present during the inspection.

Mrs. Bartlett related some of the history connected with the statue, which she said she now wished to present to the Federal Government. The statue was measured and found to be 8 1/2 feet high. Being heroic in size, the Commission felt that the location that had been suggested for it on the north side of the District Supreme Court building would be appropriate, and that a small pedestal with a platform should be designed for it. Mrs. Bartlett said she desired that Mr. Wyeth design the pedestal and this was agreeable to the Commission. The figure portrayed Sir William Blackstone in judicial robes with vigorous and stately expression. A letter of approval was sent to Mrs. Bartlett agreeing to the erection of the statue in the District of Columbia, subject to the approval of Congress (EXHIBIT K-1). The Commission expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Bartlett of her generous gift to the Government. While in the studio the Commission saw a number of models of works of art by Mr. Bartlett, among them, the model of the pediment group of the House of Representatives. A letter was also sent to Justice Groner (Exhibit K-2)

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

May 2, 1918.

Dear General Dyer:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 2, 1918, approved the models by Joseph Finkelstein, sculptor, which you submitted with your letter of April 1918, for the obverse and the reverse of the Good Conduct Medal. The models are herewith returned to you.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Wilmore D. Clark,
Chairman

Major General James G. Elliot,
The Adjutant General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Edith A.

May 7, 1942.

Dear General Harrison:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 2, 1942, approved the models by Lee Lawrie, sculptor, which you submitted with your letter of April 26th, for the obverse and the reverse of the American Defense Service Medal. The models are herewith returned to you.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Willard T. Hodge,
Chairman

Brig. Gen. James E. Harrison, P. S. A.,
Director of Military Personnel,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit A

CONFIDENTIAL

THE STATE DEPT
Military Intelligence Division
Washington

WIS/T
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REF WIS/T

April 28, 1942

Circular Letter No. 1

Subject: The Legion of Merit and Medal of Merit

To: All Military Attaches.

1. The Legion of Merit and Medal of Merit are established by the President of the United States. The Legion of Merit is a decoration which is awarded to officers and men of the United States Armed Forces and to foreign officers and men who have rendered meritorious service to the United States. The Medal of Merit is a decoration which is awarded to officers and men of the United States Armed Forces and to foreign officers and men who have rendered meritorious service to the United States.

2. The Legion of Merit will be issued only to members of the armed forces of the United States and members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations. It will be issued in the following grades, with the appropriate conditions, as follows:

a. "Chief Commander" - For Chiefs of State, Commanders in Chief of Armed Forces, and other high officials.

b. "Commander" - For General Officers and Admirals.

c. "Officer" - For Officers of Field Grade.

d. "Legionnaire" - For Officers below Field Grade and enlisted personnel.

3. The Medal of Merit may be awarded only to citizens of the United States and to members of the armed forces of the United States and all friendly foreign nations who are available to the United States. All the American Republics are considered as "friendly foreign nations."

4. These two decorations will be issued only to those who have rendered meritorious service to the United States in the field of military, naval, or air service, and to those who have rendered meritorious service to the United States in the field of diplomatic, consular, or administrative service.

5. These will be initially issued only to those who have rendered meritorious service to the United States in the field of military, naval, or air service, and to those who have rendered meritorious service to the United States in the field of diplomatic, consular, or administrative service. It is also desired to issue an initial list of individuals of foreign nations for whom such decorations would be most appropriate and desirable, in order to further the interests of the United States and to encourage foreign service to our country.

CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit C

May 8, 1942.

Dear General Horton:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on May 2, 1942, inspected the design of the medal submitted with your letter of May 1st, for proposed medals, namely the Legion of Merit and the Medal of Merit. The Commission was in conference with Major Hall concerning them.

The Commission very much liked the medal and determined that "a competent sculptor will be employed to execute these designs." This is in accord with a long-standing rule of the Commission of Fine Arts that artists chosen to execute medals will produce a work of art and a medal that the recipient will be proud to wear.

The Commission recommended that Paul Hershing, sculptor, 414 East 72nd Street, New York City, be commissioned to execute the final design and models for the Legion of Merit medal.

For the design and models of the medal "For Merit", the Commission recommended that Mr. John Flanagan, Sculptor, 211 West 58th Street, New York City, be chosen.

Both Mr. Hershing and Mr. Flanagan, sculptors of national reputation, are artists of outstanding ability in the production of medals.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Brigadier General James E. Horton, U. S. A.,
Director of Military Personnel,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.
Gilbert D. Clark,
Chairman

COPY

April 28, 1942.

James E. Wharton,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Director, Military Personnel Division,
Headquarters, Services of Supply,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Wharton:

with This will acknowledge your communication of
April 20, which you transmitt proposed designs for
~~the Army~~ of Occupation of Germany Medal, authorized by
Public Law 322, 77th Congress, Chapter 501, 1st Session,
H.R.5750.

The designs submitted are not satisfactory.
I respectfully suggest that a competent medalist be
employed. In this connection I would be pleased to send
you the names of a number of artists who are competent
to prepare a suitable design for this medal if that is
your wish. I can thoroughly understand that in these
days a competition may not be feasible; however, there
are sufficient number of well-trained sculptors available,
any one of whom I know would turn out a most satisfactory
design.

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman

EXHIBIT D

Couples

Altman, Peter, 42 Washington Place, New York, N. Y.
Beach, Chester, 237 East 15th Street, New York, N. Y.
Cordell, Henry P., The American Academy in Rome,
101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Cecere, Richard, 450 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.
Flanagan, John, 118 West 35th Street, New York, N. Y.
Fraser, Laura C., Westport, Connecticut
Fraser, James Earle, Westport, Connecticut
de Francisci, Anthony, 130 West 65th Street, New York, N. Y.
Friedlander, Lee, Montdale Road, West, Suite 210, N. Y.
Gregory, John, 35 West 60th Street, New York, N. Y.
Hancock, Walker, Lunenburg, Gloucester, Massachusetts
Hoffman, William, 157 East 59th Street, New York, N. Y.
Jannetini, C. Paul, 578 One West Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Jones, Thomas W., Mechanicsville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Keck, Charles, 40 West 10th Street, New York, N. Y.
Kislowick, Joseph, 519 East 84th Street, New York, N. Y.
Laurie, Lee, Locust Lane Farms, Radnor, Maryland
McCortan, Edward, 287 East 87th Street, New York, N. Y.
MacNeil, Vernon, College Point, Long Island, New York
Mansky, Paul, 319 East 72nd Street, New York, N. Y.
Simpson, William M., The American Academy in Rome,
101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Stackpole, Ralph, 27 Hoteling Place, San Francisco, California
Wang, Sidney B., 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Young, Mahonri M., Westfield, Connecticut

April 26, 1942

James E. Wharton
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Director, Military Personnel Division
Headquarters, Service of Supply
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Wharton:

This will acknowledge your communication of April 23rd, advising this Commission that Mr. T. A. Robelstad, sculptor, has been employed to execute designs for medals to be submitted for approval to the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Robelstad designed the El in (Ill.) Centennial Coin which is illustrated on page 35 in the 13th Annual Report of this Commission.

I shall present your communication to the Commission at its next meeting on Saturday, May 2nd, in Washington.

While it appears that Mr. Robelstad is a competent medalist I feel, nevertheless, that it would be extremely unfortunate if one man were employed to make the designs for a series of medals. There are so many competent sculptors and medalists that it would seem to me to be desirable if the War Department could commission a different artist for each medal. This would give a good deal of variety to the work and bring in others who are equally or even more competent than the sculptor whom you have chosen.

I realize that it would be extremely difficult and unwieldy to bother with competitions in these days, but I should think that the Commission might provide you with a list of fifteen or twenty sculptors who qualify as medalists so that you may have a wide choice of names to choose from. Then you may elect a certain individual to design a medal, and the Commission would be glad to have it submitted for criticism and for subsequent approval. It seems to me that this would be a particularly happy solution of the problem, inasmuch as it would enter a large number of competent artists, thus spreading the work over a greater area.

Sincerely yours,

Elmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Enclitit E

May 5, 1942.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The designs which you submitted in behalf of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for the proposed South Capitol Street Bridge received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 2, 1942.

The Commission consider the design by Rodjarki and Masters, Engineers, as being the most suitable, and recommend its acceptance.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Wilmore F. Charlie,
Chairman

Capt. W. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highways,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit F

May 8, 1942.

Dear Mr. Howe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 2, 1942, approved the design and model which you submitted for a temporary United States Territory Building, to be built on the square along Constitution Avenue between Third Street and John Marshall Place, with the understanding that the building will be dismantled soon after the termination of the war.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Albion L. Clark,
Chairman

Hon. George Howe,
Supervising Architect,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit

May 8, 1942

Dear Mr. MacLeish:

In discussing some phases of our war effort which we associated with your office, the Commission of Fine Arts found itself so unanimously in agreement as to the sad and lamentable poverty of expression found in our war posters that we feel impelled to address you on the subject.

We know that you appreciate the force and importance which any reaffirmation of our cultural unity can have in war. You have enlisted the best talent of our writers, our actors, and musicians to this end, we feel that the artists of America have not been enlisted; that, whatever the reasons may be, you have not taken effective steps to call into existence a force which could be one of the most potent of all -- the force for unity and for action which lies in deeply stirring, beautiful, and thoughtful art posters. The cold, mechanical, dishonest competence of our present output of posters suggests that this has been taken as an advertising job, to be handled with the same technique and by the same people who handle the bill posters to the public. We are rich of this kind of product, and we feel most Americans are rich of it. We feel that the most effective poster, and that we miss and long to see, is one which by real beauty and graphic power makes us conscious of a common and rich life and culture which we share and which we must defend.

Such posters came out of both France and Germany in the last war and were powerful factors for national unity. They are coming out of Russia now. They were produced then and are produced now in Russia by calling

Mr. Archibald MacLeish

May 1, 1942

Dear the artists of the country, I hope, and I feel certain, that there is an undamped force of like same sort in America: that our artists have abundantly shown a positive and fresh graphic power. It is probably harder to get at than the easily tapped resources of salesmanship, and the war does not need to be "sold" to the country, and I feel it is a great mistake to assume that our posters must work down to the public taste through the methods of salesmanship.

We earnestly urge that you take every means in your power to enlist the active service of the artists of the country toward the production of war posters which will be a potent reason for the preservation of our democracy and its growth toward a richer life, and we stand ready to assist you.

For The Commission of Fine Arts

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmore D. Flannery
Chairman

Mr. Archibald MacLeish
Librarian of Congress
Washington, D. C.

WDP:DC:RJ
CC: Mr. W. D. MacLeish
Mr. James W. Chandler

May 3, 1942.

My dear Mr. Chandler:

This is in reply to your letter of April 24,
which you addressed to Mr. T. E. Casemerer.

Your communication was presented at the last meeting
of the Commission of Fine Arts and, in some measure, was
responsible for the attached letter addressed to Mr. Archibald
MacLeish. This was prepared by Mr. Henry Graham Poor, Painter
Member of this Commission, and has the approval of the other
members of the Commission.

I rather expect that this communication answers
the question raised in your letter of April 24.

Sincerely yours,

WILSON D. CLARK,

Chairman.

Mr. Walter W. Chandler,
Starks Building Arcade,
Louisville, Kentucky.

Exhibit 7-1

April 9, 1942

Mr. Frederick A. Tolson,
EAC State Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Tolson:

Thank you for your letter of April 1st relative to the statue of Sir William Blackstone by Paul Bartlett which is proposed for a place in the National Capital. Early this year I heard of such a proposal through Mr. W. D. Crammer who called upon Mr. Bartlett at the latter's suggestion. I quote a portion of Mr. Crammer's letter to Mr. W. D. Crammer, Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States who was asked whether or not objection could be raised to the erection of a statue of an English jurist in Washington.

"A Sir William Blackstone, Paul Bartlett, 1912 -- 2nd Street, N. W., widow of the sculptor, Paul Bartlett, called me to come to visit her and see a bronze statue of the notable Justice, William Blackstone. The statue was modeled by Mr. Bartlett and after his death in 1927, Mr. Bartlett had it cast in bronze at Brussels. The statue is now in the old studio of Mr. Bartlett at 1912 -- 2nd Street, N. E. Mr. Bartlett proposes to present the statue to the Federal Government. He will be that he had brought the matter to the attention of Paul Ignatius and Mr. C. G. Smith, Principal Architect, both of whom I myself have been thoroughly impressed with it. The suggestion has been made to place it in suitable location in Judiciary Hall among the District Court buildings.

"It is understood, of course, that this would require an Act of Congress and possibly an appropriation of approximately \$10,000 for a pedestal.

"..... Since Sir William Blackstone was an English Jurist Mr. Clarke has raised the question whether it would be appropriate to erect a statue of him in the District of Columbia. Mr. Clarke has,

COMMITTEE
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

July 5, 1912

My dear Mr. Bartlett:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 3, 1912, had the pleasure to inspect the bronze statue of Sir William Blackstone, by the late Paul Bartlett, which you offer to present to the United States Government for erection on public grounds in the District of Columbia.

The Commission unanimously favors the acceptance of the statue by the Government. It will be a distinct contribution to the art of the National Capital.

The Commission suggests as a location for the statue, the grounds on the north side of the District Supreme Court Building in Judiciary Square.

For the Commission of Fine Arts.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mrs. Paul F. Bartlett,
1712 Third Street, N. E.,
Washington, D. C.

May 6, 1912

The Honorable Lyman D. Brown,
United States Court of Appeals,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Judge Brown:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on Saturday, May 4th, inspected the original statue of William Jackson by the late Paul Verelst, sculptor. The Commission unanimously favored the acceptance of this statue by the Government, to be placed on the grounds north of the District Supreme Court building in Judiciary Square.

The Honorable Frederic A. Deloitte presented me a copy of your letter to him, dated April 24th, wherein you state that an estimate of \$10,000 for a pedestal is probably excessive. I discussed this matter with the architect members of the Commission and with Mr. William Lyall, who was present with us at the time we inspected the statue. These gentlemen agree that the sum of \$10,000 is not too large a sum, since in their opinion the statue requires a broad platform mounted on a pedestal, rather than merely the pedestal alone. The sum of \$10,000 would include footings, as well as the cost of quarry for base and pedestal, and for moving the statue into place.

I have modified Mr. Deloitte's recommendation of the statue by the Commission. Of course, it will be necessary to have appropriate legislation passed by the Congress accepting Mr. Deloitte's gift of the statue to the Government.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter, I should be very glad to have you advise me.

For the Commission of Fine Arts,

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert D. Clarke,
Chairman

